



## OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING Sonora, CA 95370

May 29, 2015

**STAFF REPORT:** General Plans Update  
**STAFF:** Dan Canfield, Planning Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Status of General Plans for State Vehicular Recreation Areas

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### Summary

Several of the State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs) are in the process of updating their park general plans. A general plan directs the long-range development and management of a park by providing broad policy and program guidance. This guidance is essential to the SVRA managers and staff, and is of value to those organizations and individuals who have an interest in the SVRA. SVRAs must have an approved general plan before funding can be appropriated for any major capital outlay projects to build new facilities in a park unit.

### Discussion

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5002.2, California State Parks is generally required to prepare general plans for units of the State Park System (e.g., SVRAs) prior to the development of new capital facilities. A table identifying the status of the SVRA general plans is provided as an attachment to this report (see Attachment 1).

Following is a brief summary of recent SVRA general plan developments.

#### **Ocotillo Wells SVRA:**

The Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan team along with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) El Centro Field Office staff held two public workshops in Temecula, [California](#) and Ocotillo Wells SVRA in March 2015. The workshops informed participants about the draft Preferred Alternative/Proposed Action for the General Plan Update; the Recreation Area Management Plan and Land Use Plan Amendment (RAMP/LUPA) to the California Desert Conservation Area; and the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) scoping process. These workshops were fourth in a series of five planned workshops and included a website update and an option to comment online through the project website: [www.PlanOcotilloWells.org](http://www.PlanOcotilloWells.org).

The recent workshops were conducted in a modified open house format and consisted of an orientation table and four subject matter stations. State Parks and BLM representatives greeted participants as they arrived and answered general questions. Participants then visited each station and learned more about the project as they progressed. State Parks and BLM representatives were available at each station. Participants felt the open house format worked well because it gave them time to ask questions and discuss project concepts.



The SVRA workshop received the greatest number of participants (100), while less people (43) came to the Temecula workshop. The comment period ended on April 6, 2015, and generated over 264 written, email, and website comments. A summary of the public comments will be posted in late spring 2015. The Preliminary General Plan/RAMP/LUPA and Draft EIR/EIS is anticipated to be released for public review in winter 2015/2016.

### **Carnegie SVRA:**

The Carnegie SVRA Preliminary General Plan and associated Draft EIR are being circulated for public review and comment for a period of 45 days, beginning April 23, 2015.

The Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR are the product of a multi-year effort involving substantial public/stakeholder input and environmental analysis. It includes a series of visitor experience areas and a detailed set of goals and guidelines developed to guide operations and management of the SVRA into the future. The goals and guidelines address existing issues and provide management guidance that should be implemented to achieve the SVRA's long-term vision.

The Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR can be viewed and downloaded at the project website: [www.CarnegieGeneralPlan.com](http://www.CarnegieGeneralPlan.com). Written Comments can be submitted via mail to:

California State Parks  
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division  
c/o AECOM; attn. Carnegie General Plan  
2020 L Street, Suite 400  
Sacramento, CA 95811

Comments can also be submitted electronically at:  
[www.CarnegieGeneralPlan.com/DEIR-comments](http://www.CarnegieGeneralPlan.com/DEIR-comments); or by email:  
[CarnegieDEIRComments@gmail.com](mailto:CarnegieDEIRComments@gmail.com).

Comments are greatly appreciated and should be submitted no later than June 8, 2015.

### **Prairie City SVRA:**

The Prairie City SVRA General Plan team published a revised General Plan Preferred Concept Comment Card on September 30, 2014. During the month of October, the Prairie City SVRA General Plan team expanded their efforts to inform the public about the revised General Plan Preferred Concept. In addition to email blasts and project website updates, OHMVR Division staff reached out to OHV dealerships in the Sacramento region to spread the word about the revised Preferred Concept and to solicit public feedback. OHMVR Division staff also distributed flyers and comment cards at the Prairie City SVRA entrance kiosk and at the Prairie City SVRA visitor appreciation day event.

The comment period on the revised Preferred Concept ended on October 31, 2014, with over 400 comments received. In December 2014, a Summary and Key Findings document was posted to the project website: [www.PrairieCityGeneralPlan.com](http://www.PrairieCityGeneralPlan.com).

Based on the input received on the revised Preferred Concept, the Prairie City SVRA General Plan team is currently producing a Preliminary Draft General Plan and Draft EIR.

### **Commission Action**

For information only

### **Attachments**

Attachment 1: SVRA General Plans Update – May 2015

**CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS****OHMVR DIVISION**State Vehicular Recreation Area General Plans Update  
May 2015

Park Unit	Adopted	Amended	General Plan (GP) Status & Updates in Progress
Carnegie SVRA	1981	-	GP update in progress. Preliminary GP/ Draft EIR published for public review and comment April 23, 2015.
Clay Pit SVRA	2012	-	Approved by the OHMVR Commission June 2012.
Eastern Kern County, Onyx Ranch SVRA	-	-	GP process tentatively planned to begin in Fall 2016.
Heber Dunes SVRA	2011	-	Approved by the OHMVR Commission December 2011.
Hollister Hills SVRA	1978	2003	-
Hungry Valley SVRA	1981	-	GP update pending, including Frazier Park acquisition.
Oceano Dunes SVRA	1975	1991	-
Ocotillo Wells SVRA	1981	-	GP update underway including newly acquired properties. Draft Preferred Planning Alternative published March 6, 2015.
Prairie City SVRA	1991	-	GP update underway. Prairie City SVRA General Plan team currently refining Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR.